

Regular Monthly Meeting

Monday, September 16, 2024 6:00 PM

R-P Schools Forum Room, 1000 Pine Meadows Lane, Rushford, Minnesota 55971

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

4. **Adoption of Agenda**

5. **Public Comments - Limited to 5 minutes per person**

6. **CONSENT AGENDA (roll call vote)**

6.A. August 19, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

6.B. Donations in the amount of \$8,869.68

6.C. August hand payables, wires & payroll liabilities in the amount of \$285,249.05

6.D. August payroll in the amount of \$255,687.23

6.E. September board bills in the amount of \$228,295.93

6.F. PERSONNEL:

6.F.1. Resignations:

Joel Hinke - Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach

6.F.2. Hires:

Alysta King - Foodservice Assistant

Jennifer Romie - Paraprofessional (Kids Club / Wraparound Care)

6.G. Approve the Foster Care Transportation Agreement with Fillmore County.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.A. Approve the MSBA Model Policy Technical

Revisions for the following policies:

102 - Equal Educational Opportunity

104 - School District Mission and Vision Statements

204 - School Board Meeting Minutes

207 - Public Hearings

413 - Harassment and Violence

7.B. Approve the certification of the proposed levy for 2024 payable in 2025. Set the levy rate at the maximum.

7.C. Discuss and approve a date and time for a special meeting to canvass the results of the November School Board General Election. (possible date- Monday, November 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Forum Room. Required to be held between November 8-15)

7.D. Approve the 2024-2025 Safe Learning Plan.

8. ADMIN REPORTS

8.A. Superintendent Report

8.B. Elementary Report

8.C. Middle School / High School Report

8.D. Activities & Community Education Report

9. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

9.A. Hiawatha Valley Education District Report

10. INFORMATION:

**Regular Monthly Meeting: Monday, October 21st -
6:00 P.M. in the Forum Room**

**Meet & Confer: Tuesday, October 15th - 7:15 A.M.
in the Conference Room**

11. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #239

The regular meeting of the Rushford-Peterson School District #239 school board was called to order by Chairperson, Chris Grindland at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 19, 2024 in the Rushford-Peterson Schools Forum Room.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Chris Grindland, Matt Helgemoe, Ken Sawle, Carl Schollmeier, Nancy Snyder and Amy Woxland

Members absent: Jeff Michel

Administration Present: Superintendent Ben Bernard, Angela Shepard & Jake Timm

District Personnel: Joel Hinke & Laura Hahn

Motion by Snyder, seconded by Schollmeier to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Schollmeier, seconded by Schollmeier to approve the following consent agenda items: July 15, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes; July hand payables, wires & payroll liabilities in the amount of \$315,476.03, July payroll in the amount of \$263,507.29, August board bills in the amount of \$237,621.99; Personnel: Resignations: Kristi Agrimson - Kids Club / Preschool Wrap Around Care Paraprofessional, Monte Tudahl - Full-time Custodian (will remain on staff as a sub) and Rosanna Johnson - Foodservice Assistant; Hires: Nikki Bunke - Cheerleading Coach, Nathan Whitacre - Assistant Football Coach, Lacey Drinkall - JH Volleyball Coach, Jacquelyn Goyette - Head Dance Coach, Megan Boyum - District Office Assistant / Transportation Coordinator - LTS And Heather Beerman - ECFE Parent Educator. With a roll call vote of 6:0, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sawle, seconded by Woxland to approve the second reading and adoption of the following policies: (first reading – 5/20/24) 213 - School Board Committees, 301 - School District Administration, 302 – Superintendent and 303 - Superintendent Selection. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Woxland, seconded by Helgemoe to set the following date and time for the Truth-in-Taxation meeting- Monday, December 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Rushford- Peterson Schools Forum Room. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Woxland, seconded by Snyder to approve the handbooks for 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Woxland, seconded by Helgemoe to set the adult lunch price for 2024-2025 to \$5.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposals for garbage removal and recycling services were reviewed. Proposals were received from Harter's Quick Clean-up and LRS Waste Removal Services.

Motion by Helgemoe, seconded by Schollmeier to approve a one-year contract with Harter's Quick Clean-up. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Bernard presented the Superintendent's report.

Angela Shepard presented the Elementary report.

Jake Timm presented the Middle School / High School report.

Joel Hinke presented the Activities / Community Education report.

The Hiawatha Valley Education District Report was reviewed.

With regards to Superintendent Bernard’s Evaluation, Chairperson Grindland read the following statement:
The school board rated Dr. Bernard as "Highly Effective" or "Effective" in all six areas of the 23 -24 school year evaluation. This evaluation was based on the district's progress towards achieving the goals in the 2023-28 strategic plan.

INFORMATION:

Regular Monthly Meeting – Monday, September 16, 2024, 6:00 p.m. in the Forum Room

Motion by Schollmeier, seconded by Woxland, to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Grindland, Chairperson

Matt Helgemoe, Clerk

DONATIONS - September 2024

7/15/2024	BK5K - Race Volunteer Donation	\$3,000.00	Will fund Community Ed programs
8/23/2024	Anonymous	\$500.00	Student Chromebook fees
8/23/2024	Rushford-Peterson Booster Club	\$4,369.68	Track uniforms
9/6/2024	MN Deer Hunters Association	\$1,000.00	Archery equipment and supplies for PE program
Total		\$8,869.68	

We thank the above donors for their generous donations and support of our school district and activities!

Rushford-Peterson Public School

Payment Reg by Bank and Check

Bank	Batch	Pmt No	Check No	Pay Type	Grp Code	Rcd	Vendor	Tax Class	Print	Recon	Pay/Void		Amount
											Void	Date	
001	P1AP24	49944		Wire	1	2408	MN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE		No	No	No	08/05/2024	114.87
001	P25021	49966		Wire	1	2046	TRANSAX		No	No	No	08/13/2024	10.00
001	P25021	49967		Wire	1	2151	TUITION EXPRESS		No	No	No	08/13/2024	380.47
001	P25021	49968		Wire	1	2267	CARDCONNECT		No	No	No	08/13/2024	184.94
001	p2502p	49971		Wire	1	12990	COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE		No	No	No	08/14/2024	6,171.31
001	p2502p	49972		Wire	1	2289	AVIBEN		No	No	No	08/14/2024	7,694.16
001	p2502p	49973		Wire	1	46168	PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT		No	No	No	08/14/2024	5,075.62
001	p2502p	49974		Wire	1	49200	RUSHFORD STATE BANK		No	No	No	08/14/2024	37,587.63
001	p2502p	49975		Wire	1	56000	TEACHERS RETIREMENT ASSN		No	No	No	08/14/2024	24,519.50
001	P1AP24	50062		Wire	1	14832	DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT		No	No	No	08/21/2024	4,000.47
001	P25021	50064		Wire	1	1903	KWIK TRIP		No	No	No	08/23/2024	1,881.50
001	p2502q	50075		Wire	1	12990	COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE		No	No	No	08/27/2024	5,917.11
001	p2502q	50076		Wire	1	2110	GUARDIAN		No	No	No	08/27/2024	8,333.10
001	p2502q	50077		Wire	1	2132	COLONIAL LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURAN		No	No	No	08/27/2024	1,348.26
001	p2502q	50078		Wire	1	2133	MN HEALTHCARE CONSORTIUM		No	No	No	08/27/2024	66,645.96
001	p2502q	50079		Wire	1	2289	AVIBEN		No	No	No	08/27/2024	7,694.16
001	p2502q	50080		Wire	1	46168	PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT		No	No	No	08/27/2024	4,761.53
001	p2502q	50081		Wire	1	49200	RUSHFORD STATE BANK		No	No	No	08/27/2024	36,255.29
001	p2502q	50082		Wire	1	56000	TEACHERS RETIREMENT ASSN		No	No	No	08/27/2024	23,901.03
001	P25021	50102		Wire	1	2024	ARBITER SPORTS		No	No	No	08/30/2024	5,000.00
001	P1AP24	49950	46354	Check	1	2266	AUMAN, XANDER		Yes	No	No	08/06/2024	75.00
001	P1AP24	49949	46355	Check	1	1587	L & R SMALL ENGINE		Yes	No	No	08/06/2024	134.96
001	P1AP24	49952	46356	Check	1	2363	PATTEN, BRADEN		Yes	No	No	08/06/2024	100.00
001	P1AP24	49951	46357	Check	1	2294	RUBERG, WENDY		Yes	No	No	08/06/2024	137.00
001	P1AP24	49953	46358	Check	1	31674	LEWISTON-ALTURA HIGH SCHOOL		Yes	No	No	08/06/2024	250.00
001	P1AP24	49954	46359	Check	1	45552	PLAYSCRIPTS INC		Yes	No	No	08/06/2024	924.19
001	P25021	49961	46360	Check	1	1076	CITY OF LA CRESCENT POOL		Yes	No	No	08/12/2024	168.00
001	P25021	49962	46361	Check	1	48600	RUSHFORD FOODS		Yes	No	No	08/12/2024	1,716.40
001	P1AP24	49959	46362	Check	1	46804	PERFORMANCE FOODSERVICE LA CRI		Yes	No	No	08/12/2024	32.85
001	P1AP24	49958	46363	Check	1	48600	RUSHFORD FOODS		Yes	No	No	08/12/2024	208.82
001	P1AP24	49960	46364	Check	1	63025	WHV INC		Yes	No	No	08/12/2024	6,270.00
001	p2502p	49970	46365	Check	1	48175	RP EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONN		Yes	No	No	08/14/2024	133.03
001	p2502p	49969	46366	Check	1	48100	RUSHFORD-PETERSON EDUCATION		Yes	No	No	08/14/2024	2,214.75
001	P25021	50056	46447	Check	1	2312	LANESBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS		Yes	No	No	08/21/2024	100.00
001	P1AP24	50057	46448	Check	1	1291	EDUCATOR BENEFIT CONSULTANTS, L		Yes	No	No	08/21/2024	132.61
001	P1AP24	50059	46449	Check	1	23401	HIAWATHA VALLEY MENTAL HEALTH		Yes	No	No	08/21/2024	1,052.70
001	P1AP24	50060	46450	Check	1	25138	IEA INC		Yes	No	No	08/21/2024	1,864.67
001	P1AP24	50058	46451	Check	1	1601	NORTHEAST METRO INTERMEDIATE S		Yes	No	No	08/21/2024	1,920.00
001	P1AP24	50061	46452	Check	1	52179	SEMCAC TRANSPORTATION		Yes	No	No	08/21/2024	4.00

Rushford-Peterson Public School

Payment Reg by Bank and Check

Bank	Batch	Pmt No	Check No	Pay Type	Grp Code	Rcd	Vendor	Tax Class	Print	Recon	Pay/Void		Amount
											Void	Date	
001	P25021	50063	46453	Check	1	48600	RUSHFORD FOODS		Yes	No	No	08/22/2024	267.09
001	P25021	50065	46454	Check	1	2329	CONCORD THEATRICALS		Yes	No	No	08/23/2024	330.00
001	P1AP24	50066	46455	Check	1	2329	CONCORD THEATRICALS		Yes	No	No	08/23/2024	280.00
001	P25021	50067	46456	Check	1	1015	CASH		Yes	No	No	08/26/2024	1,100.00
001	p2502q	50068	46457	Check	1	02370	AFLAC		Yes	No	No	08/27/2024	167.76
001	p2502q	50069	46458	Check	1	1274	MERCHANTS BANK		Yes	No	No	08/27/2024	12,895.84
001	p2502q	50070	46459	Check	1	37815	MN SCHOOL EMPLOYEE ASSN		Yes	No	No	08/27/2024	180.73
001	p2502q	50071	46460	Check	1	40998	NCPERS GROUP LIFE INS		Yes	No	No	08/27/2024	16.00
001	p2502q	50073	46461	Check	1	48175	RP EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONN		Yes	No	No	08/27/2024	133.35
001	p2502q	50072	46462	Check	1	48100	RUSHFORD-PETERSON EDUCATION		Yes	No	No	08/27/2024	2,214.75
001	p2502q	50074	46463	Check	1	48210	RUSHFORD-PETERSON ESCROW ACC		Yes	No	No	08/27/2024	1,666.64
001	P25021	50083	46464	Check	1	1015	CASH		Yes	No	No	08/28/2024	350.00
001	P25021	50084	46465	Check	1	1408	HERITAGE		Yes	No	No	08/28/2024	701.00
001	P25021	50085	46466	Check	1	1108	ST. CHARLES PUBLIC SCHOOLS		Yes	No	No	08/28/2024	30.00

Bank Total: \$285,249.05

Report Total: \$285,249.05

Rushford-Peterson Public School

Payment Reg by Bank and Check

Bank	Batch	Pmt No	Check No	Pay Type	Grp Code	Rcd	Vendor	Tax Class	Print	Recon	Pay/Void		Amount
											Void	Date	
001	P25033	50116		Check	1	03188	CARD MEMBER SERVICES		No	No	No	09/16/2024	293.00
001	P25033	50117		Check	1	04615	BERNARD BUS SERVICE		No	No	No	09/16/2024	31,183.36
001	P25033	50118		Check	1	04698	QUALI-TEE SCREEN PRINTING		No	No	No	09/16/2024	357.00
001	P25033	50119		Check	1	06620	BROWN TIRE & BATTERY		No	No	No	09/16/2024	146.83
001	P25033	50120		Check	1	08886	CAROLINA BIOLOGICAL SUPPLY CO		No	No	No	09/16/2024	155.91
001	P25033	50121		Check	1	1046	MN DEPT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY		No	No	No	09/16/2024	200.00
001	P25033	50122		Check	1	1291	EDUCATOR BENEFIT CONSULTANTS, L		No	No	No	09/16/2024	65.81
001	P25033	50123		Check	1	13177	CONTINENTAL CLAY COMPANY		No	No	No	09/16/2024	810.68
001	P25033	50124		Check	1	13268	CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES		No	No	No	09/16/2024	282.24
001	P25033	50125		Check	1	1391	ACENTEK		No	No	No	09/16/2024	4,638.66
001	P25033	50126		Check	1	1408	HERITAGE		No	No	No	09/16/2024	990.00
001	P25033	50127		Check	1	14282	DALCO		No	No	No	09/16/2024	1,474.24
001	P25033	50128		Check	1	1467	TEACHER SYNERGY INC.		No	No	No	09/16/2024	220.38
001	P25033	50129		Check	1	1469	LEARNING A-Z		No	No	No	09/16/2024	262.16
001	P25033	50130		Check	1	1581	QUADIENT		No	No	No	09/16/2024	1,000.00
001	P25033	50131		Check	1	1586	PAN-O-GOLD BAKING CO.		No	No	No	09/16/2024	326.42
001	P25033	50132		Check	1	1596	ADVANCED BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC.		No	No	No	09/16/2024	199.50
001	P25033	50133		Check	1	1654	ANDERSON AUTO, LLC		No	No	No	09/16/2024	884.75
001	P25033	50134		Check	1	16945	CARDMEMBER SERVICE		No	No	No	09/16/2024	8,422.94
001	P25033	50135		Check	1	1716	MPLC		No	No	No	09/16/2024	326.54
001	P25033	50136		Check	1	18398	FILLMORE COUNTY JOURNAL		No	No	No	09/16/2024	208.21
001	P25033	50137		Check	1	1856	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES		No	No	No	09/16/2024	17,504.74
001	P25033	50138		Check	1	1860	COULEE CONNECTIONS		No	No	No	09/16/2024	840.00
001	P25033	50139		Check	1	18650	FLINN SCIENTIFIC INC		No	No	No	09/16/2024	767.57
001	P25033	50140		Check	1	1896	FARMERS MUTUAL HAIL INSURANCE C		No	No	No	09/16/2024	713.00
001	P25033	50141		Check	1	1902	ANDERSON'S		No	No	No	09/16/2024	307.81
001	P25033	50142		Check	1	1999	CRESCENT LANDSCAPE SUPPLY, INC.		No	No	No	09/16/2024	2,415.00
001	P25033	50143		Check	1	2021	CDW GOVERNMENT		No	No	No	09/16/2024	280.16
001	P25033	50144		Check	1	2136	HART COUNTRY MEATS		No	No	No	09/16/2024	1,547.00
001	P25033	50145		Check	1	2152	AVI SYSTEMS INC.		No	No	No	09/16/2024	3,067.28
001	P25033	50146		Check	1	2189	MRI SOFTWARE LLC		No	No	No	09/16/2024	25.00
001	P25033	50147		Check	1	2211	LOFFLER		No	No	No	09/16/2024	722.28
001	P25033	50148		Check	1	2219	BLOOKET LLC.		No	No	No	09/16/2024	550.00
001	P25033	50149		Check	1	2220	CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.		No	No	No	09/16/2024	1,221.73
001	P25033	50150		Check	1	22210	HAMMELL EQUIPMENT INC		No	No	No	09/16/2024	225.00
001	P25033	50151		Check	1	22380	HARRIS REFRIGERATION		No	No	No	09/16/2024	1,494.50
001	P25033	50152		Check	1	2297	HEGGERTY		No	No	No	09/16/2024	266.52
001	P25033	50153		Check	1	2324	TOM'S LOCK SERVICE, INC		No	No	No	09/16/2024	915.00
001	P25033	50154		Check	1	2325	HIDDEN STREAM FARM LLC		No	No	No	09/16/2024	212.50

Rushford-Peterson Public School

Payment Reg by Bank and Check

Bank	Batch	Pmt No	Check No	Pay Type	Grp Code	Rcd	Vendor	Tax Class	Print	Recon	Pay/Void		Amount
											Void	Date	
001	P25033	50155		Check	1	2385	MTI DISTRIBUTING, INC		No	No	No	09/16/2024	142.75
001	P25033	50156		Check	1	2391	GREAT LAKES SPORTS		No	No	No	09/16/2024	1,740.69
001	P25033	50157		Check	1	2392	HEIDISONGS		No	No	No	09/16/2024	99.99
001	P25033	50158		Check	1	2395	SPECIALY DESIGNED EDUCATION SE		No	No	No	09/16/2024	3,240.00
001	P25033	50159		Check	1	2413	THE COMPREHENSIBLE CLASSROOM		No	No	No	09/16/2024	350.00
001	P25033	50160		Check	1	2414	PREMIER BUILDING CENTER		No	No	No	09/16/2024	95.04
001	P25033	50161		Check	1	2418	RAHE OF SUNSHINE FARMS		No	No	No	09/16/2024	108.00
001	P25033	50162		Check	1	25001	HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT PUBL		No	No	No	09/16/2024	393.56
001	P25033	50163		Check	1	29759	KEMPS		No	No	No	09/16/2024	2,483.44
001	P25033	50164		Check	1	38000	MN STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE		No	No	No	09/16/2024	1,000.00
001	P25033	50165		Check	1	39210	MOTOR PARTS & EQUIPMENT		No	No	No	09/16/2024	11.52
001	P25033	50166		Check	1	39800	NASCO		No	No	No	09/16/2024	59.90
001	P25033	50167		Check	1	41400	NORMAN'S ELECTRIC SERVICE INC		No	No	No	09/16/2024	348.05
001	P25033	50168		Check	1	45380	PIONEER MANUFACTURING COMPANY		No	No	No	09/16/2024	762.55
001	P25033	50169		Check	1	46078	PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL		No	No	No	09/16/2024	130.40
001	P25033	50170		Check	1	46804	PERFORMANCE FOODSERVICE LA CR		No	No	No	09/16/2024	23,057.42
001	P25033	50171		Check	1	46804	PERFORMANCE FOODSERVICE LA CR		No	No	No	09/16/2024	138.60
001	P25033	50172		Check	1	46833	REALLY GOOD STUFF INC		No	No	No	09/16/2024	103.47
001	P25033	50173		Check	1	46954	RTS / ROCHESTER TELECOM SYSTEM		No	No	No	09/16/2024	26.01
001	P25033	50174		Check	1	46955	ROCKLER WOODWORK & HARDWARE		No	No	No	09/16/2024	149.90
001	P25033	50175		Check	1	48020	RUSHFORD, CITY OF		No	No	No	09/16/2024	34,787.40
001	P25033	50176		Check	1	48604	RUSHFORD HARDWARE		No	No	No	09/16/2024	597.11
001	P25033	50177		Check	1	50650	SCANTRON CORPORATION		No	No	No	09/16/2024	413.00
001	P25033	50178		Check	1	50651	SCANTRON CORPORATION		No	No	No	09/16/2024	1,016.52
001	P25033	50179		Check	1	50978	SCHOOL SPECIALTY LLC.		No	No	No	09/16/2024	1,332.83
001	P25033	50180		Check	1	52157	SELCO		No	No	No	09/16/2024	496.46
001	P25033	50181		Check	1	52179	SEMCAC TRANSPORTATION		No	No	No	09/16/2024	2.00
001	P25033	50182		Check	1	56030	SUPER DUPER PUBLICATIONS		No	No	No	09/16/2024	199.95
001	P25033	50183		Check	1	56040	PAM'S CORNER		No	No	No	09/16/2024	223.48
001	P25033	50184		Check	1	56040	PAM'S CORNER		No	No	No	09/16/2024	757.94
001	P25033	50185		Check	1	61614	WASTE MANAGEMENT		No	No	No	09/16/2024	1,165.91
001	P25033	50186		Check	1	62929	WINONA HEALTH SERVICES		No	No	No	09/16/2024	115.00
001	P25033	50187		Check	1	63025	WHV INC		No	No	No	09/16/2024	3,866.96
001	P25033	50188		Check	1	63056	WINONA NURSERY INC		No	No	No	09/16/2024	439.53
001	P2AP24	50189		Check	1	23400	HIAWATHA VALLEY		No	No	No	09/16/2024	41,429.33
001	P2AP24	50190		Check	1	36723	MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY		No	No	No	09/16/2024	376.00

Rushford-Peterson Public School
Payment Reg by Bank and Check

										Pay/Void			
Bank	Batch	Pmt No	Check No	Pay Type	Grp Code	Rcd	Vendor	Tax Class	Print	Recon	Void	Date	Amount
001	P2AP24	50191		Check	1	46967	ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS		No	No	No	09/16/2024	21,111.50
										Bank Total:			\$228,295.93
										Report Total:			\$228,295.93

**PURCHASE OF SERVICE AGREEMENT
TRANSPORTATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT**

This Agreement is entered into by and between Rushford-Peterson Schools (hereinafter referred to as the District) and Fillmore County Community Services (hereinafter referred to as “FCCS”).

WHEREAS, the parties desire for the District to provide certain transportation services for students in foster care placement under the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), youth placed in a foster care placement will remain enrolled in their school of origin, unless a determination is made that it is not in their best interest. Best interest factors include timeliness, consideration of the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement.

WHEREAS, the term foster care is defined as 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions and pre-adoptive homes. This definition is consistent with the Fostering Connections Act (45 CFR 1355.20).

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, the District is required to collaborate with child welfare agency to develop and implement procedures for how transportation for youth in foster care will be provided, arranged and funded, including the use of child welfare funding to cover costs for such transportation provided by the District and FCCS agree to share the costs of the transportation. This agreement outlines the developed agreement about shared costs of transporting youth in foster care to and from school.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual terms and conditions contained herein, it is agreed by and between the parties hereto as follows:

1. TERM:

The term of this Agreement shall be in effect from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

2. EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT DECISIONS:

FCCS is responsible for determining appropriate education placement and the presumption should be that the child will remain in the school of origin to provide school stability and educational continuity for the child, unless contrary to the child’s best interests. FCCS and/or representative of the school in which the child is currently enrolled will work with the FCCS foster care contact to determine, based on the child’s best interest, whether the child should remain in the school of origin or consider a transfer to the local zoned school for the child’s new residence.

If FCCS is considering moving a child to a new educational placement, FCCS will have a phone consultation with the current school contact prior to gathering input about the best interests of the child in relation to their school placement. FCCS and District Transition Education Services

Liaison responsible for students in foster care will work collaboratively to inform this school placement decision-making process. The current school will provide information about the appropriateness of the child's current educational placement. FCCS shall take into consideration this information and other best interest factors found in section three when making an educational decision. The District Transition Education Services Liaison and /or a representative of the school in which the child is enrolled will be asked to participate in the meeting, either by phone or in person. FCCS will identify a point of contact from the FCCS to work directly with the District Transition Education Services Liaison to ensure a smooth transition.

3. BEST INTEREST FACTORS:

When considering placement, the following best interest factors should be considered:

- The student's age
- The school attended by the student's siblings
- Length of time student is expected to remain at the current placement and the possible location of housing intended to be long-term
- Distance of commute and the impact it may have on the student's education and other student-centered, transportation-related factors, including travel time
- The preferences of the student, the birth parents or prior custodians as appropriate, and the student's foster care parent(s) or current placement provider
- School stability and educational continuity
- Time remain in the academic year
- Personal safety, attendance, academic progress and social involvement of the students in the current school
- The impact transferring the student to a new school may have on his or her needs and progress academically, emotionally, socially and physically
- Availability of classes to avoid credit loss and for timely graduation or promotion
- Documentation of the best interest determination shall be maintained in the **FCCS** case file and student's cumulative record.

4. SERVICES

Transportation Services will be provided by the District in the following manner:

- a. Students who are able to be transported to school on an existing route: When feasible, students placed in foster care will be transported to school on an existing bus route. Feasibility considerations will include the location, length of bus ride, space available on the route and availability of any needed accommodations. District will cover the associated costs.
- b. Students who have an IEP indicating the need for specialized transportation: If students are residing and attending school within the District, the District will assume costs required for transporting the student to school. District will cover the associated costs.
- c. Students who are unable to be transported on an existing route: If a route does not exist or is not a feasible option for the student placed in foster care, the District will arrange for transportation service by a van, when possible. FCCS will assume financial responsibility for this transportation and will be invoiced by the District for this service. In the event, the District is not able to arrange or provide transportation

due to bus/van or driver availability, FCCS will be responsible for providing transportation.

- d. Students residing in a foster care placement outside of District boundaries but attending a District School: If students are residing in a foster care placement outside of District boundaries, but are attending school within the District, transportation will be arranged by the District and the costs of transportation will be invoiced to the FCCS.
- e. Students placed in foster care within District and attending a non-District School: The District will bear no financial responsibility for this student. FCCS and the school district where the student attends are expected to make arrangements for transportation and the associated costs.

5. PAYMENT FOR SERVICES:

- a. Transportation services will be provided by the District and its contracted transportation providers, when possible, at a rate of 50% of the daily cost of transportation. If due to driver or vehicle unavailability, FCCS will be responsible for transportation of the student placed in foster care.
- b. FCCS will identify a point of contact from the FCCS to work directly with the District Transition Education Services Liaison to ensure transportation arrangements are timely and authentic. All transportation requests are to be requested by the FCCS point of contact and will be honored.
- c. FCCS will compensate the District for transportation provided outside of the district pursuant to this agreement at the rate billed to the district by the private transportation company. Copies of the invoices from the private transportation company will be provided to FCCS.
- d. The District will submit itemized invoices to the FCCS contact on a quarterly basis. The invoices will detail each trip provided by the District, the total time for each trip and the associated charge. Payment shall be made within 35 days of receipt of the invoice.
- e. In situations where transportation is being funded by FCCS, FCCS point of contact will notify the District Transition Education Services Liaison when foster care placements end.

6. DISPUTE RESOLUTION:

It is the responsibility of FCCS and the District to collaborate in determining the child's best interest for school transportation and to resolve any conflicts. Whenever possible, the parties will attempt to informally resolve any dispute involving the best means and costs of transportation of a child in foster care. FCCS and the District will pursue the formal dispute resolution procedures below when informal resolution is not possible, or when informal resolution would result in disruptions to the child's education.

To formally dispute a decision regarding transportation for a student in foster care the following steps should be taken:

- a. The process for resolution between the two parties requires a written

explanation of the conflict from the disputing party within 24 hours.

- b. Upon receipt of the explanation, the decision be reviewed by the District and the Director of Children and Family Services of FCCS. Input will be reviewed from all parties and a decision by the Director will be communicated within three business days. A decision could be made to uphold the decision, reverse the decision or require the parties to participate in a Family Group Decision Making Team meeting.
- c. Child will remain enrolled in their school of origin until the dispute resolution process has concluded.
- d. If disagreement on school transportation remains, guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education will be requested.
- e. In the event of a dispute, transportation will continue to be provided by the District. The agency that had been paying for transportation prior to the dispute will continue to pay until the dispute is resolved. If the transportation was not provided previously, the District will arrange and provide transportation and FCCS will reimburse the District for additional costs, while payment disputes are being resolved.

7. PROVIDER NOT AN EMPLOYEE:

It is agreed by the parties that at all times and for all purposes herein, District and its subcontractors are independent providers and not employees of FCCS. No statement contained in this Agreement shall be construed so as to find the District shall be entitled to none of the rights, privileges, or benefits of FCCS employees except as otherwise stated herein.

8. INDEMNIFICATION:

Each party shall be liable for its own acts and the acts of its representatives to the extent provided by law and hereby agrees to indemnify, hold harmless, and defend each other, its officers, employees and volunteers against any and all liability, loss, costs, damages, expenses, claims or actions, including attorney's fees which the others, its officers, employees and volunteers may hereinafter sustain, incur or be required to pay, arising out of or by reason of any act or omission of the Party, its agents, employees or volunteers, in the execution, performance, or failure to adequately perform its obligation pursuant to this Agreement.

9. TERMINATION OF CONTRACT:

Either party may terminate this Agreement, with or without cause, upon a thirty (30) days written notice to the other party.

10. STANDARDS:

The District and FCCS shall comply with all applicable State statutes and regulations as well as local ordinances and rules now in effect or hereafter adopted.

11. DATA PRACTICES:

All data collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated for any purposes by the activities of the District or FCCS because of this contract is governed by the Minnesota

Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Chapter 13, as amended, the Minnesota Rules implementing such act now in force or as adopted, as well as federal regulations on data privacy.

12. AMENDMENTS:

This agreement may be supplemented, amended or revised only in writing by agreement of both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on the dates written below.

FILLMORE COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

BY: *Wanda Berg, Psy.D.*

DATED: 9/9/2024

Wanda Berg
Director, Social Services

SCHOOL DISTRICT

BY: _____

DATED: _____

Name: Ben Bernard
Title: Superintendent

BY: _____

DATED: _____

Name
Title

Minnesota Department of Education
Levy Limitation and Certification Report
2024 Payable 2025

District Number-Type: 0239-01
District Name: Rushford-Peterson Public Schools
Home County: Fillmore County

Date Printed: 9/16/24
Limits Updated: 9/15/24
Proposed Submitted: 9/16/24

LIMIT

PROPOSED

SUBTOTALS BY LEVY CATEGORY

GENERAL - RMV VOTER
GENERAL - RMV OTHER
GENERAL - NTC VOTER
GENERAL - NTC OTHER
COMMUNITY SERVICE - NTC OTHER
GENERAL DEBT - NTC VOTER
GENERAL DEBT - NTC OTHER
OPEB DEBT - NTC VOTER
OPEB DEBT - NTC OTHER

The School Board has voted to certify the MAXIMUM levy authority.

After October 1st, the county auditor should consult the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) website for the district's current levy limitation and use this amount for the Truth in Taxation notices.

SUBTOTALS BY FUND

GENERAL FUND
COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND
GENERAL DEBT SERVICE FUND
OPEB/PENSION DEBT SERVICE FUND

If there is a change to the district's levy limitation after October 1st, the county will be notified by MDE via email. Before finalizing tax computations for the Truth in Taxation notices, counties should double check the MDE website to be sure no changes have been made to the district's levy limitation that the county is not already aware of through this email process.

SUBTOTALS BY TAX BASE

REFERENDUM MARKET VALUE
NET TAX CAPACITY

SUBTOTALS BY TRUTH IN TAXATION CATEGORY

VOTER APPROVED
OTHER

TOTAL LEVY

TOTAL LEVY

The school district must submit the completed original of this form to the home county auditor by September 30, 2024. A duplicate form must be submitted to Minnesota Department of Education, School Finance Division, 400 NE Stinson Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55413, by October 7, 2024.

The certified levy listed above is the levy voted by the school board for taxes payable in 2025.

Signature of School Board Clerk

Date of Certification



Rushford-Peterson

2024-2025

Safe Learning Plan



This plan will be reviewed every six months until: September 30, 2024.

The R-P Safe Learning Plan has been formulated in consultation
with information from the

[Minnesota Department of Health \(MDH\)](#) and the [Centers of Disease Control \(CDC\)](#).

FACE COVERINGS/MASKS

- Masks are recommended until symptoms are completely resolved.
- R-P Schools have masks available if students/staff request a mask while on school property.

SCREENING PROTOCOLS

- All staff and students should stay home if they aren't feeling well.
- Staff and students are encouraged to self-monitor symptoms throughout the day. Anyone who begins to experience symptoms should inform the office. Any student with a fever will be sent home and should not return until fever-free for 24 hours regardless of what type of illness they are experiencing.
- A sign will be placed on the main entrance of the building, stating anyone who is not feeling well should not enter the building.

SUSPECTED/CONFIRMED CASE of COVID-19 PROTOCOL

- Per MDH guidance, individuals will be asked to stay home until the following are true; symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours, without using fever-reducing medication. A mask will be recommended until symptoms have resolved completely.
- Students will continue to engage with teachers via Google Classroom at the MS/HS level and teacher/parent communication at the elementary level.

CLOSE CONTACTS

- [Close Contact Guidance](#)
- [Isolation Guide](#)
- [Quarantine Guide](#)
- Rushford-Peterson Public Schools will not contact trace students in the school setting during the 2024-25 school year.
- Household close contacts will be asked to monitor closely for symptoms.
- In the event that more than two students in any classroom or activity test positive for COVID-19, families will be notified to watch their students more closely for symptoms.

CLEANING PROTOCOLS

- Routine cleaning will occur to sufficiently remove potential viruses that may be on the surfaces.
- School/programs will continue to promote personal hygiene and social distancing, to the extent possible, best practices in order to limit the spread of COVID-19

The District Covid team will utilize a 7% positivity rate (between board meetings) to make adjustments to the plan and potentially increase mitigation measures.



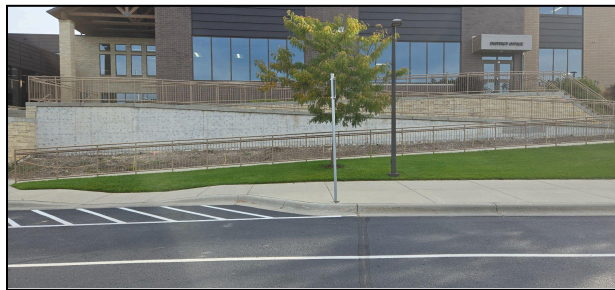
Superintendent's Report 9/16/24

Enrollment Update

	KG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total	Change from Previous Count	Gold = Increase Red = Decrease
09/13/2024	39	47	41	41	43	51	44	56	46	57	64	62	54	645	-1	Current 24-25 School Year
08/15/2024	40	46	41	41	43	51	43	55	46	58	65	62	55	646	24	End of 23-24 School Year
06/01/2024	39	42	42	46	38	44	43	58	63	58	56	45	48	622		Start of 23-24 School Year

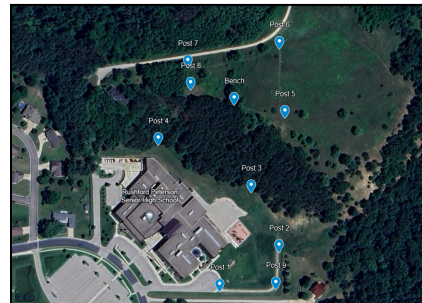
Facilities

- Front Wall
 - The stone that was falling off the wall has been removed. Two permanent solutions are still being explored for next spring. These are: removing all of the stone from the ramps and staining the stone, or replacing the stone on these ramps with a system that is similar to how the stone is applied to the rest of the



building.

- School Nature Walking Trail
 - The new school nature trail initial phase is complete. I want to thank the following for their help in this project.
 - Wellness Committee for planning and organization.
 - Southeast Service Coop for the grant that funded the project
 - Jeff Michel for the initial bush hog mowing of the trail.
 - Mr. Kramer and the Go Green Club for the donation of a bench on the trail.
 - Anthony Woxland for the installation of trial marking posts and lights. This task was part of his Eagle Scout project.



- Track / Football Press Box
 - We believe the press box was hit by lightning just before the first home football game and that the lightning has caused many issues that people may have noticed. In the last two weeks we have had to repair the wireless internet, HUDL camera, irrigation system, and audio system.

Home School Student Meeting

- On Wednesday September 18th, we are inviting home school families to start a discussion about how the district and the homeschool can help support each other in furthering the education of all of the students that reside in the district. You can read the letter that was sent to all home school families [here](#). If people would like to attend, please use the link in the letter or contact me personally to register.



RUSHFORD-PETERSON SCHOOLS

HOMESCHOOL PARENT MEETING

Let's start a conversation as to how the District and homeschool families can work together to strengthen the education of all students in the Rushford-Peterson Valley.

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2024

TIME
1:30PM - 3:00PM

LOCATION
R-P AUDITORIUM

Homeschool parents, please look for an email from the district, or contact superintendent Ben Bernard for more information.

507-864-7785 x1001
benbernard@r-pschools.com

Employment

- Below are open positions at Rushford-Peterson Schools. For more information on any of these positions, please contact the district office.
 - Assistant Dance Coach
 - Foodservice Assistant (2.5hr)
 - Paraprofessional - Middle/High School
 - Substitute Paraprofessional - All Levels
 - Substitute Teacher - All Levels
 - Van Drivers and Substitute Van Drivers

Please contact me with questions.

Ben Bernard

Elementary School Board Report

9-16-2024

Educate the *difference makers* of tomorrow.

Angela Shepard-

- Open House Attendance
 - ~ Elementary K-5 237/262
 - ~ Early Childhood 51/53
- School Bus Safety - K-5 ~ September 6th
- Fire Drill ~ September 12th
- PIE Fundraiser
- CAREIALL Trainings

Early Childhood- Emily Johnson

Preschoolers are enjoying getting to know each other and learning the preschool routine. They are also learning about shapes and enjoy searching for puzzle pieces in the shape table.



Early Childhood- Alison Kjos

We have been busy getting to know each other and learning our classroom routines. One of our favorite activities so far is snacktime!



Kindergarten- Carissa George, Kora Miller

It has been a great start to the school year! The kindergarteners have been busy getting to know their classmates and the rules and routines of the classroom and school!



1st- Becky Lind, Jessica Burt, Emily Walberg

We had a fun and exciting first week of school in 1st grade! We were busy learning our classroom rules and procedures. We also learned about bus safety and practiced how to get on, how to sit, and how to exit the school bus safely. We've really enjoyed getting to know each other and look forward to a wonderful school year!



2nd- Shannon Kopperud, Clay Olstad

What a great start to the year! We are getting to know each other and getting back into the flow of our classroom expectations and routines. We learned about bus safety. Ready for an awesome year!

3rd- Jade Olstad, Krissy Kelly

Third grade has had a great start to the school year. We have been getting to know one another and have been working on our daily routines. We read the story First Day Jitters together and have started learning about rounding in math!

4th- Jon Theuer, David Jewison

4th grade is off and running! We have had a great first week of school getting to know the students! We have been working hard at establishing routines and working through transitions to different parts of the day. We also spent time working on team work and creating challenges to build a respectful classroom environment.

5th- Chris Drinkall, Emily Charlebois

We're off to a great start in fifth grade as students have begun to acclimate to the new academic year. During the first week, we focused on learning the ropes, which included familiarizing ourselves with classroom routines, expectations, and essential supplies. Additionally, we covered important information regarding bus safety procedures.

K-4 Intervention - Margaret Marklowitz

Finishing up Benchmark assessments and getting ready to start classes on Monday 9/16.

3-5 Intervention- Meredith Johnson

- We have been working on FastBridge testing and will hopefully see students soon.

Reading/Math Title- Lacey Drinkall

- FastBridge testing and Data Review Meeting

PE- K,1,2,4- Teresa Brown

Kindergarten and first graders are working on locomotor movements. The benchmark for locomotor movements is to demonstrate hop, gallop, slide, skip and run while maintaining balance. We are also working with bean bags. We are working on improving our eye hand coordination by tossing and catching in various ways and using various body parts to toss and catch. We are working on using an underhand toss to a partner or target. The benchmark is to throw underhand stepping with the opposite foot.

For second grade we are working with bean bags. We are working on improving our eye hand coordination by tossing and catching in various ways and using various body parts to toss and catch.

We are working on using an underhand toss to a partner or target. The benchmark is to throw underhand using a maturing pattern. We are also using hula hoops for various games and spinning on body parts.

4th graders are working on eye-hand coordination using footballs. We are introducing what offense and defense mean and some patterns to run as a receiver. We are practicing throwing to a person who is moving and how to catch a football while moving. The benchmark for 4th grade is throwing overhand within a task that requires force for distance, demonstrating four of the five critical elements of a maturing pattern in a closed environment.



PE- 3,5- Nikki Schultz

3rd grade is getting a lot of physical fitness by jogging down to the ample green space for PE. We have learned the proper technique for throwing a football. They have also learned about different routes to run. They are being introduced to offense and defense. They will advance to playing ultimate football.

5th grade is working on their overhand throw and how to make everyone successful in class. We have reviewed the importance of working as a team in small-sided games. We started the year with football. Over the next week, they will play ultimate and



4-down flag football.



Music K,1,2,4- Elizabeth Landherr

Music is off to a great start. All of the grades are getting into a routine and doing review. All grades are working on rhythm review and review songs from the previous year to build on their skills.

Music 3,5- Ben Mahlke

5th Grade - we are off to a solid start. They are learning about the expectations and design of the music class from January to the end of the school year and we are currently working on learning how to count musical rhythms using a number system instead of a sound based system.

3rd Grade - we are reviewing rhythms and challenging ourselves to be as accurate as possible. We have also learned a few singing games.

Special Education- Amber Meisch, Sophia Wescott, Aspen Blom/Jenny Thompson

Elementary special education is off to a great start, welcoming the students back, and welcoming our new teacher, Sophia Westcott, and Aspen Blom's long term sub, Jenny Thompson. We are all getting into a good routine, and are working on getting to know each other. The students are enjoying the new location of the Wiggle Room, and have

had a lot to share about their summers. We are looking forward to receiving our new Phonics for Reading curriculum, and our functional math curriculum.

Art Class- Samantha Cunningham

No Elementary Art this Trimester.

Social Worker- Kelly Smith

Our Student Support Team worked hard at preparing for our very first elementary assembly on Monday morning. The team presented our NEW theme for this school year: **Make Kindness the Norm**. Throughout the year, the entire elementary school will learn about ways to share kindness with others through the Random Acts of Kindness curriculum.



School Counselor - Lindsey Olson

- one on one minute meetings with 6-8th grade students!



Middle/High School Board Report

September 16, 2024

Mr. Timm

Educate the *difference makers* of tomorrow.

Student Achievement	Upcoming career opportunities for our students: - BCC CTE Exploration Day – 30+ careers represented, held at Caledonia High School parking lot on September 19 (Freshman and Sophomore classes will be attending) - Late October/Early November – Junior tour of all three post-secondary institutes in Winona Our CTE teachers will be attending job alike meetings with area teachers on the following dates through the Perkins Consortium: - Sept 18 – FACS - Oct 2 – Agriculture and Trades/Industry - Oct 3 – School Counselors - Oct 10 - Business Attached to board packet is some information from our Bluff County Collaborative. - August Newsletter - Annual Report										
School Culture	Our Middle School and High School Student councils are planning many fulfilled Homecoming activities. In addition to the events listed below other planned events include dress up days, painting downtown business window with School Spirit and the MS/HS Friday morning breakout sessions. Our homecoming court will be seen serving lunch to the elementary, joining them for some recess time and visiting Good Shepard for some Bingo. <table><tr><td>Monday, September 16</td><td>Coronation of King and Queen JV Football @ Goodhue</td></tr><tr><td>Tuesday, September 17</td><td>Varsity VB v St Charles Cross Country @ Ferndale Golf Course JH Pumpkin Bowl (FB) v. Goodhue JH Pumpkin Bowl (VB) v St Charles</td></tr><tr><td>Thursday, October 5</td><td>Pre-School-12 Pepfest Power Puff and Boys VB (Jr v Sr)</td></tr><tr><td>Friday, October 6</td><td>Parade and Pep Rally Varsity Football v Fillmore Central MS Pumpkin Bowl Dance following game</td></tr><tr><td>Saturday, October 7</td><td>Homecoming Dance – 8:00</td></tr></table>	Monday, September 16	Coronation of King and Queen JV Football @ Goodhue	Tuesday, September 17	Varsity VB v St Charles Cross Country @ Ferndale Golf Course JH Pumpkin Bowl (FB) v. Goodhue JH Pumpkin Bowl (VB) v St Charles	Thursday, October 5	Pre-School-12 Pepfest Power Puff and Boys VB (Jr v Sr)	Friday, October 6	Parade and Pep Rally Varsity Football v Fillmore Central MS Pumpkin Bowl Dance following game	Saturday, October 7	Homecoming Dance – 8:00
Monday, September 16	Coronation of King and Queen JV Football @ Goodhue										
Tuesday, September 17	Varsity VB v St Charles Cross Country @ Ferndale Golf Course JH Pumpkin Bowl (FB) v. Goodhue JH Pumpkin Bowl (VB) v St Charles										
Thursday, October 5	Pre-School-12 Pepfest Power Puff and Boys VB (Jr v Sr)										
Friday, October 6	Parade and Pep Rally Varsity Football v Fillmore Central MS Pumpkin Bowl Dance following game										
Saturday, October 7	Homecoming Dance – 8:00										
Miscellaneous	October 10 – Fall Parent/Teacher Conference October 11– No School (Staff Development Day) October 15 – Academic Letter Ceremony October 17-18 – MEA Break October 27 – Minnesota Honor Society Ceremony October 31-November 2 – All School Play										

	November 26 – End of 1 st Trimester
--	--

August 23, 2024

Bluff Country Collaborative Newsletter

Kick-off 2024-25 at the BCC CTE Exploration Day

You are invited to join us September 19 for our annual kick-off event! This outdoor event brings local careers to life with hands-on, interactive activities in a career fair style. The CTE (Career and Technical Education) Exploration Day is designed for 9th and 10th graders. Students meet professionals and dig into the types of careers available in and around Houston and Fillmore Counties.

Captivating, hands-on exhibits, displays and equipment are *highly recommended*. Meet high school students and create connections with the future talent pool! Showcase what your job is like, types of things you do, skills you use regularly, and more! Students will need to participate in job shadows and/or internships later in high school. The CTE Exploration Day is a great way for students and professionals to network.

When: Thursday, September 19, 2024

Rain Date: Friday, September 20, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., set up by 8:45, lunch break included

Schools: Time slot is 90 minutes and varies by district. Coordinate with MaryAnne.

Where: Caledonia High School - outdoor and indoor spaces

Who: Area employers, businesses, organizations of all career fields

Why: Career exploration and networking

Registration for businesses: [online](#) or by email to MaryAnne at BCCNavigators@gmail.com or by phone at 507-251-4388.





According to students, the best parts of this event in the past have been:

- Learning new things
- Learning about new careers
- Seeing the jobs and

- figuring out where to go*
- Discovering work
- Learning about different jobs
- Talking to people in the workforce
- Pep Talks

More than 600 students are expected. With 18 companies and organizations currently registered, there is space for more! Join us for this fun, energetic, and engaging event!



Experience As a Teacher

Some say experience is the best teacher. Maybe true; maybe not. In the BCC, we aim to provide youth real-world, hands-on, meaningful experience. The Bluff Country Collaborative Leadership Team identified a priority for 2024-25 is to increase student experience in the workplace with local employers and organizations. We need your help to make this a reality and have a renewed emphasis on workplace experience.

- Job Shadow
- Paid work experience for a semester*
- Paid internship*
- Entry level job*
- Volunteer and service hours

Youth have so many questions about careers and companies. What is your job? What does your company do? How do you manage that many projects? Where do I start? What is your favorite part of the job? Does your company pay for more training? How much do you make? Can I ask that in an interview? What is the culture like? How does your company get their supplies? Do you actually use math in the real world? How far do your employees travel? What jobs can teenagers have at your business? What can I do in High School to be ready for a job in your career? Will you show me how to do that?

As you consider your workplace and community, what opportunities exist for youth to volunteer, job shadow a colleague, assist in a project, develop skills transferable to any industry, or fill an entry-level role?

2024-25 will be a year of bringing together professionals and youth for deeper learning, experience, and growth in workplace readiness.

Contact MaryAnne or any member of the BCC Leadership Team to get started.

*Eligible youth and eligible employers may receive support through partnering organization programs and resources. Simply ask.

What's On Deck With BCC?

A great lineup of events, tours, and panels are on the docket for 2024-25. Career development is a journey, which is why a variety of events are planned.

September 19 - CTE Exploration Day

October - Manufacturing Month, an emphasis on tours*

November 19 - Union Reps Panel, an emphasis on building and construction trades

December 5 - Pick-a-Pathway Industry tour - variety of career fields

January - Healthcare emphasis on immersive experience and tours*

February 4 - Entrepreneurship Panel

February 12 - Dream Job Event @ Mabel-Canton

March 5 - Career Fair & Hiring Event

April 3 - Dream Job Event @ Rushford-Peterson

April 22 & May TBD - 8th Grade Careers On Campus (two dates)

**Tour hosts needed. Contact MaryAnne or complete this ["Tour Host"](#) form if interested*

Sometimes an entire grade attends. Sometimes it is a handful of interested students or a specific class participating. The intention of each BCC event is to amplify local and regional experiential learning efforts, ensuring that all students in Southeastern Minnesota receive a combination of education and experience in grades 7-12 needed to pursue a meaningful career and/or education pathway after high school graduation.

Each year we get better and better with aligning BCC events with school courses and calendars. A lot of factors go into deciding which events and when. We take a look at industry celebrations, such as Manufacturing Month. Community interests inspire events, such as an entrepreneurship panel. On occasion, an individual teacher wants to enhance learning, such as a Workplace Writing Workshop for English 10. You'll find all these events, details and more on our [website](#).

Additional events and details are available on the BCC calendar online at www.bluffcountrycollaborative.org/calendar or download a printable summary [here](#).

Minnesota Manufactured Statewide Tour 2024

Minnesota State Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence is leading the state's celebration of Manufacturing Month with tours across Minnesota. BCC is here to help coordinate participation in our area. How does it work?

Interested businesses can let us know by completing [this form](#) by September 20. Your availability will be shared with local school districts in and around BCC. Schools wanting to take students on tours of local manufacturing companies will work with MaryAnne to select a date and travel route.

All tours will be submitted to the official Statewide Tour of Manufacturing schedule. This enables access to transportation dollars available from Minnesota State Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence and distributed by Southeast Service Cooperative, a BCC partnering organization.

In 2023, BCC toured 4 local companies: Sno Pac Foods, Flex Craft, Harmony Enterprises, and Valley Design. Who can we visit this year?

How can BCC serve you?

As always, teamwork makes the dream work. If you have an idea, suggestion, or inspiration of what BCC can do, please let us know.

Open For Professionals, Businesses, and Nonprofit Organizations

Do you want to be at the top of the list for professionals invited to meet with students, present to a class, host a job shadow, or be a career resource? Explore the range of experiential learning opportunities available through BCC and let us connect you with high school students. Click [here](#).

Thank you to employer, community, government, and school partners that make programs and events a reality.

THANK YOU!!



MaryAnne Smith
Youth Workforce Navigator
Bluff Country Collaborative

bccnavigators@gmail.com
507-251-4388



PS - You are receiving this newsletter because you have either asked to be included or have previously participated in a BCC event. If you no longer wish to receive newsletters about the Bluff Country Collaborative, then please reply to this email and let us know. Thank you.



Bluff Country Collaborative

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT



110 East Grove St.
Caledonia, MN 55921
www.bluffcountrycollaborative.org

Sustainable
Regional Partnerships.
Local Impact!

A Message From BCC Leadership

The Bluff Country Collaborative (BCC) experienced continued growth, engagement, and improvement in the 2023-24 academic year. Building on the momentum from 2022-23, with funding and support from nearly 200 area businesses, our Youth Workforce Navigator organized career exploration and skills development opportunities for more than 1,600 area junior high and high school students.

We invite you to explore our annual report and witness firsthand the positive impact of the BCC and the collaborative work we do.

Some 2023-24 Bluff Country Collaborative highlights include:

- **Presenting at the Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB)** annual meeting in Duluth, MN, as part of a panel discussion around successful Workforce Development and Education partnership initiatives throughout the MN.
- **Selection as one of fewer than 80 second-round finalists in the national Career Z Challenge competition**, a cohort-based cooperative challenge, to apply for funding to expand work-based learning opportunities in school districts nationwide.
- **Interest and inquiry from several area School Districts in joining the BCC** to help maximize the CTE and career-connected learning opportunities for their students and communities.
- **Career and Technical Education (CTE) Exploration event held outdoors during the Fall Semester** where regional employers bring equipment, facilitate fun activities, and allow students to explore, engage, and experience CTE Careers in our communities.
- **Increased interest and attendance for Building and Construction Trades Panel Discussion** (Spring Semester), where students not planning to attend college can meet, learn about, and ask questions of local trade and Union Representatives.
- **Career Fair and Hiring Event for employers, students, and current job seekers** held during the spring semester, where employers can meet and engage with our future workforce and line up interviews.
- **Employer/Business Tours** that allow students to tour local business to see and experience firsthand the everyday internal operations of that industry.
- **Mock Interviews for juniors and seniors**, hosted by area industry and business professionals.
- **In-Class Speakers** that connected industry professionals in various career fields with students.

The Bluff Country Collaborative Leadership Team would like to express its sincere appreciation to BCC schools, businesses, partners, industry professionals, and students who helped make 2023-24 a success. We are excited to continue facilitating and developing career pathways, experiential learning, and employer engagement opportunities in the 2024-25 academic year for Fillmore and Houston Counties, and Southeast MN.

Gratefully,

Our Mission

The mission of BCC amplifies local and regional experiential learning efforts, ensuring that all students in Southeastern Minnesota receive a combination of education and experience in grades 7-12 needed to pursue a meaningful career and/or education pathway after high school graduation.

Sustainable & Collaborative Impact

“Mock interviews help me as much as, if not more than, the students. They allow me the chance try out different questions and figure out what today’s youth are into, and how to connect with them in different ways; what resonates with them.”

- Klayton Miner, CEO, Miners Underground

“We actually hired the student that I (mock) interviewed last year for an internship and he’s coming back again this year. Thanks!”

- Derek Olinger, Bolton & Menk, Inc.



“Since 1958, we’ve built our business on family, hard work, and high standards, with the support of our community. BCC is important to us because it gives us the opportunity to give back to our community while connecting us with passionate, local youth that will continue to carry on our legacy and to make a great impact on the future of our industry.”

- Megan Sobieski, Caledonia Haulers, Inc.

“It is an idea I have been incubating since before the pandemic. With the engine power of MaryAnne Smith, the Youth Workforce Navigator for the Bluff Country Collaborative and six willing area professionals including CPS alumni and parents of current students, this year my idea came to life.”

- David Riley, English Teacher at Caledonia Area High School on collaborating with the BCC to host a Workplace Writing and Communication Workshop during regular morning class time.



“Houston Public Schools values its partnership with Bluff Country Collaborative because it offers opportunities to our students that they wouldn’t otherwise have. The BCC coordinates and combines resources and career and technical educational opportunities to help us prepare all students in the BCC region for their future.”

- Michael Mangan, Houston Public Schools

In 2023-24 BCC Students:

Explored Multiple Career Opportunities



	Number of Participant:		
	Students	Employers	Schools
CTE Exploration Day	556	32	5
Dream Job Event	358	37	5
Industry Tours	166	13	5
	=====	=====	
Total Careers Explored	1080	82	

Engaged and Learned from Industry Professionals



	Number of Participant:		
	Students	Employers	Schools
Careers on Campus (8th Grade)	252	15	6
Trade Panel/Assemblies	68	5	3
Classroom Speakers	22	1	1
	=====	=====	
Total Student Engagement	342	21	

** Houston Public Schools*

Experienced Careers with Regional Businesses



	Number of Participant:		
	Students	Employers	Schools
Career Fair / Hiring Event	72	25	5
Job Shadows	28	24	1
Mock Interviews	145	54	4
	=====	=====	
Total Career Experiences	245	103	

Although the BCC may not directly coordinate Job Shadows and Work Experiences, it plays a vital role in leveraging its network of business and professional resources to connect area schools with local employers.

About Bluff Country Collaborative

In the summer of 2017, local economic development staff began speaking with businesses about the dire need for employees. These conversations revealed that regional employers wanted to engage with local students to build workforce pipelines but needed more connections to the schools and additional capacity to manage programs. Simultaneously, the SE Perkins Consortium was facilitating conversations with area school districts to discuss experiential learning opportunities. These school districts were eager to provide experiential learning opportunities for their students. Still, more community and business partner engagement was needed to offer opportunities and programming on a larger scale.

When economic development and education leaders met and realized they were working on the same issue, albeit from different perspectives, it was immediately apparent that an opportunity existed to create a "bridge" between schools and businesses. This new partnership ultimately formed the Bluff Country Collaborative, an innovative effort to connect business, education, and local government, and organizations committed to the region's economic sustainability.

Since 2017, the BCC has continued to expand in both membership and scope, enabling thousands of students in Fillmore County, Houston County, and the surrounding area to actively target and explore numerous career pathways and employment opportunities with local and regional employers, beginning as early as 7th grade.

2023-24 BCC Leadership Partners

Allison Wagner (CEDA)

Director, Houston County, MN
Economic Development Authority

Brian Cashman

Secondary Coordinator
Southeast Perkins Consortium

Chris Hahn (CEDA)

Director, Fillmore County, MN
Economic Development Authority

Dawn Lubahn

Director of Secondary Relations
Minnesota State College Southeast

Megan Horton

Regional Youth Programs Coordinator
Workforce Development, Inc.

MaryAnne Smith

Youth Workforce Navigator
Bluff Country Collaborative

Mike Schnell

Career Connected Learning Specialist
Southeast Service Cooperative

Sarah Ness

Program Manager
Southeast Service Cooperative

"Ensuring the economic vitality of rural communities in Houston and Fillmore Counties by connecting schools, employers, local government, and community resources in an effort to provide meaningful, hands-on experience to the next generation of workers."

The Youth Workforce Navigator Role

The role of Youth Workforce Navigator provides a vital connection between area schools and local employers. Through a visible presence within each of the partner school districts, the Youth Workforce Navigator's primary focus is working with teachers and administrators to help identify and coordinate experiential learning opportunities for area students relevant to community workforce needs.

Since 2020, MaryAnne Smith, has served as the BCC Youth Workforce Navigator. An ag and math educator by profession, MaryAnne is also a certified Teacher Coordinator of Work Based Learning, making her uniquely qualified for this work. She understands first-hand the needs and challenges area students, teachers and administrators encounter related to career exploration, career pathway development, and engagement opportunities.

As the Youth Workforce Navigator, MaryAnne spends approximately 30 percent of her time at partner schools developing close working relationships with teachers and administrators, listening to their needs, and connecting them with area businesses. This physical presence also allows MaryAnne to quickly identify opportunities to collaborate with other schools with similar needs, maximizing participation for events like CTE Exploration Day, Trade and Industry Panel Discussions or Industry Tours.

As a result of her excellent work as the BCC Youth Workforce Navigator, MaryAnne Smith was named a **2022 Rising Star under 40** by the 7 Rivers Alliance, Tri-state Leadership Council.

BCC Partner School Districts



Caledonia, MN



Houston, MN



La Crescent - Hokah



Lewiston-Altura



Mabel-Canton



Rushford-Peterson



Spring Grove, MN

2023-24 Funding Sources

Platinum Partners



Gold Partners



Arlin Falck
Foundation



Silver Partners

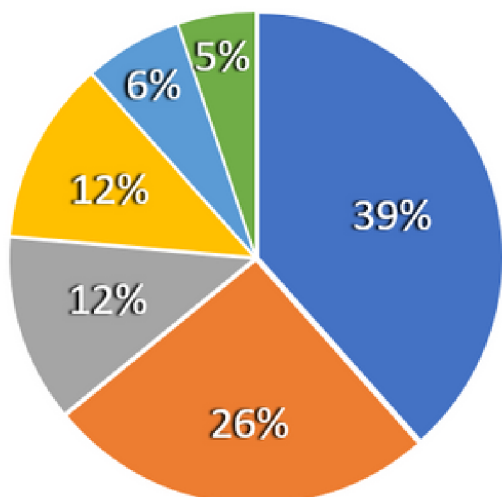


Bronze Partners

AMS Micromedical
Caledonia Veterinary Clinic

Sno Pack Foods
Mark & Elizabeth Dokken

2023-24 Funding Sources



- Youth Service Training Grant
- Southeast Service Cooperative
- Community & Foundation Grants
- Perkins Grant Funding
- Regional Business Partners
- Partner School Districts

For more information on the Bluff Country Collaborative, Career Engagement Events in your area, or how your business or organization can become involved in preparing Southeastern Minnesota's future workforce, please visit our website at www.BluffCountryCollaborative.org, or contact MaryAnne Smith, BCC Youth Workforce Navigator at bccnavigators@gmail.com or 507-251-4388.

September Board Report 2024

Fall Activities:

- Activities Workers:
 - I have created a working google sheet with all Activities having a separate tab. These tabs have all information of workers for events. This has been nice for us to keep track of who is working, where we are missing workers, and notifying them before events happen.
 - If there are any people that you know might have an interest, I would love to chat with them and see where we could use them to continue to run successful events.
 - We have most of the fall already covered, but have a few missing spots (admissions & PA)
- Home events This week:
 - 9/16:JV @ Goodhue- 5:00pm
 - 9/17: CC meet @ Ferndale 4:30pm, VB vs St Charles 4:30-7:15 (All levels), JH football vs Goodhue 8th-4:30pm 7th-5:30pm
 - 9/19: JH football @ Blooming Prairie 8th-4:30pm 7th-5:30pm
 - 9/20: Varsity Football vs Fillmore Central 7:00pm
- Varsity and 9th grade Volleyball teams went 3-0 in their respective tournaments on 9/7, while RP Varsity football picked up their first win against Bethlehem Academy.

Community Ed:

- Community Ed brochure has been sent out to families
 - More opportunities for youth this fall/winter than for adults. My goal is to add more opportunities through pop up opportunities, while advertising through social media. (Jeff Metz- Thrivent)

- Seasonal activities: Haunted House & Winter Tree painting, Fall and Halloween cupcake decorating, Flag Football, and basketball.
- Flag football is organized a little differently this year. We are holding 2nd/3rd grade skills and games, and a hybrid 4/5/6 padded/flag league. All games will be played on Saturdays @ RP. High school players will be helping run drills, and referee games as well. The hybrid league is NOT full contact. Our goal is to teach the necessary skills, and fundamentals of the game, while creating a fun and safe environment.

Social Media:

- Accounts have been created and I am going to try and make at least 1-2 posts per week, as well as updating on events that I am supervising. Other supervisors also have login information, so they are able to add posts as well.
 - Twitter (X) - RPHS_Activities
 - Instagram- RP_trojans

- **Joel Hinke**
Rushford Peterson Activities/Community Ed. Director



We welcome ~ James Creaghe, HVED's Facilities Manager



James joined HVED on August 1 and has been involved in making buildings and grounds improvements and providing advice throughout HVED.

A few key points of introduction from James:

- I am a proud parent of two beautiful girls, Martha age 13 and Emily age 7.
- I have been in maintenance and/or water wastewater for 30 years.
- I served in the United States Marine Corp.
- I love my Steelers and am passionate about cooking and having fun with my girls.

You can reach James Creaghe at (507) 961-3423 or jcreaghe@hved.org

HVED Board of Directors Moves Meetings to New Site beginning July 24, 2024



A meeting room in the former Winona Mall at 1213 Gilmore Avenue, Winona, MN will be the site of the HVED Board of Directors' meetings beginning on July 24, 2024. The new Board Room is located on the south side of the mall. The entrance is currently shared with the MN License Center. The public is welcome to attend in person or via zoom. Meeting information is posted online at www.hved6013.org under Upcoming Events/News.

SAIL in Kellogg, MN Hosted a Teacher Bike Training

On August 21 SAIL hosted a bicycle training for participants from our programs and member districts. This training supports the new legislation which requires K-8 teachers to teach pedestrian and bike education. Upon completion of the training, participants receive access to curriculum and the option to receive a fleet of bikes available to their school for a two-week session for bicycle safety instruction. This training was offered to all member districts and others in the region. Participants from seven member districts attended with Wendy Haake and Michelle Houston from SAIL and Deanne Baumgartner.



HVED Strategic Plan In Action 2024-2027

Available at: https://rst6-livesite.rschoolday.com/sites/hved6013.org/files/files/Private_User/cmaschka/HVED_Strategic%20Plan_Final_FullDocument_12-20-23.pdf

Vision: Embracing Partnerships and Possibilities to Improve Lives

Mission: Fostering Student Growth Through Collaborative Education

Core Values: Collaboration • Service • Healthy Dialogue • Support • Growth

- We embrace collaboration as the path to fostering student growth.
- We provide meaningful value through service to others.
- We believe healthy dialogue builds trusting relationships.
- We believe students succeed through personalized support and individual growth



The **Strategic Plan Oversight Committee** meets monthly as either a large group for decision making and communication or as a small group for research and productivity. Quarterly updates are provided to the Board of Directors. Input is being gathered from HVED employees and our partners across HVED to set goals and objectives for this important work.



Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)



Save the dates for the HVED SEAC meetings held via zoom. **Zoom links are available on the HVED website www.hved6013.org under Upcoming Events/News.**

Our goal is to have parents of special education students from every member district and a representative from the charter schools who is willing to commit to this important parent connection and communication tool for special education programming and support. **Learn more at <https://www.hved6013.org/page/2574>**



2024-2025 Virtual Meetings for Fall - October 28, Winter - January 27, Spring - April 28, Summer - July 28

ATTENTION: all parents of special education students throughout HVED!

You are invited to join HVED's Special Education Advisory Council.

Quarterly virtual meetings by zoom from 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

Next meeting date is Monday, October 28

Meeting Topic:

Make a request!

Visit our SEAC section on the HVED website at www.hved6013.org under the "Parents" tab.

Our goal is to have at least one parent representative from every school!

Let it be YOU!

PARENTS with CHILDREN in SPECIAL EDUCATION

Are you interested in being involved?

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) acts as a liaison between Hiawatha Valley Education District (HVED) and its member school districts and the charter schools it serves.

SEAC's purpose is to:

- Build collaborative relationships
- Identify needed resources
- Encourage parental engagement
- Recommend priorities for services



If interested, please email SEAC@hved.org

Visit the PARENTS tab on the HVED website for quarterly virtual meeting information www.hved6013.org



*Embracing
Partnerships
and
Possibilities
to
Improve Lives*

SEAC

Parents partnering with Hiawatha Valley Education District (HVED)

District Office
1410 Bundy Blvd
Winona, MN 55987
(507) 452-1200

**HVED SEAC Brochure Updated for 2024-2025 and Available On Our HVED Website At**

https://rst6-livesite.rschooltoday.com/sites/hved6013.org/files/files/Private_User/cmaschka/HVED_SEAC%20Brochure%20edited%20by%20R-P%20parent%20FINAL%20for%202024-2025.pdf

Hiawatha Valley Education District

Embracing Partnerships and Possibilities
to Improve Lives



1410 Bundy Blvd, Winona, MN 55987
(507) 452-1200
info@hved6013.org

Serving Twelve Member Districts:

Caledonia
Chatfield
Dover-Eyota
La Crescent-Hokah
Lanesboro
Lewiston-Altona
Mabel-Canton
Plainview-Elgin-Millville
Rushford-Peterson
St. Charles
Spring Grove

Wabasha-Kollogg/Falcon View Online

Serving Three Charter Schools

Bluffview Montessori
Ridgeway Community
Rollingstone Community



HVED SEAC Committee Members

You are invited to join us!

If you are a parent of a special needs child and new to special education or if you have been involved with special education for years, you are welcome and invited to join our meetings.

Local SEACs advise school districts on programs and services to meet the special educational needs of children and families. By sharing their unique perspective of what it is like to use these services, parents can help the district to be more effective. As a result, outcomes for children with disabilities should improve.

Meetings are held quarterly during 2024-2025 on October 28, January 27, April 28, July 28 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. The zoom link is available on the HVED website under Upcoming Events/News.

Learn more by:

- Visiting our HVED website at www.hved6013.org (under the PARENTS tab)
- Asking your child's case manager about SEAC
- Contacting your child's building administrator
- Calling HVED at (507) 452-1200 and ask for information about SEAC
- Emailing SEAC@hved.org

Visit our HVED website at www.hved6013.org for:

- HVED Organizational Chart
- Visual Map of HVED
- Links to all Districts and Schools served
- Agendas and Minutes of SEAC meetings
- Zoom link for virtual SEAC meetings
- Information specific to SEAC

Edna B.S. 2024

PACER Center Contact Information

Website: www.pacer.org Email: pacer@pacer.org
Telephone: (952) 638-9100 or (800) 837-3237
TTY: (952) 638-9150 Fax: (952) 838-0190

PACER is your advocate, providing:
Student Advocacy - Workshops -
Parent Assistance Resources -
Assistive Technology - Publications

Each Member District and School is served by an HVED Director of Special Education who monitors and supports special education services in each district, school, or program.

Jen Irlke, M.Ed.

jirllke@hved.org
(907) 669-2179

Program Director at SAIL (Behavior)

51 Red School Lane, Kellogg, MN 55945
O: (507) 767-3329 F: (507) 767-3232

Program Director at SPECTRUM (Autism)

211 Main Street, Hokah, MN 55941
O: (507) 894-1100

Glover Schmitt, Ph.D.

gschmitt@hved.org
(907) 730-2485

Serving: Caledonia, La Crescent-Hokah,

Wabasha-Kollogg/Falcon View Online

Program Director at River Valley Academy (RVA)

Area Learning Center (ALC)

HVED District Office

1410 Bundy Blvd, Winona, MN 55987
O: 507-452-1200 F: 507-452-3422

Zach Selnes, Ed.D.

zselnes@hved.org
(907) 459-3577

Serving: Chatfield, Dover-Eyota, St. Charles, Plainview-Elgin-Millville

Program Director of Early Intervention (Birth to 3)
Referrals taken via MN Help Me Grow

<https://helpmeginn.org/HMG/GetHelpChild/HowRefer/index.html>

Tracy Twotson-Lind, Ed.S. twotson-lind@hved.org

(907) 459-0578

Serving: Lanesboro, Lewiston-Altona,

Mabel-Canton, Rushford-Peterson, Spring Grove,

Bluffview Montessori School, Ridgeway Community

School, and Rollingstone Community School



HVED SEAC Brochure Updated for 2024-2025 and Available On Our HVED Website At

https://rst6-livesite.rschoolday.com/sites/hved6013.org/files/files/Private_User/cmaschka/HVED_SEAC%20Brochure%20edited%20by%20R-P%20parent%20FINAL%20for%202024-2025.pdf

WHAT IS A SEAC?

SEAC (pronounced "Seck") is an acronym for **Special Education Advisory Council**.

A group that provides input on special education issues to its local school district. Its purpose is to advise and advocate, not to decide policy.

Minnesota law requires each school district to have a SEAC which could be offered in cooperation with an education district. The law does not specify how the group should be organized or what duties they should perform. Each SEAC may have a unique mission and structure.

Members of the HVED SEAC are recommended by the school administrator to the District's Director of Special Education to attend or, if interested and willing, to commit to serve as representative for their District for a two (2) or a three (3) year term.

The SEAC consists of parents, community representatives, and school staff. At least 50% of the members must be parents of students from diverse disability areas.

Consider zooming in with us during the 2024-2025 school year at our quarterly meetings on Mondays from 6:30 – 7:30 PM on October 28, January 27, April 28, and July 28. A Zoom link is available on the HVED website under Upcoming Events/News.

By sharing my unique perspective and insights as a parent, I help my own school district, together with HVED, to work more effectively with families to improve outcomes for children.



Purpose of SEAC

Increase the awareness of parents of children with disabilities in district policy and decision making

Collaborate with districts on policies and decisions affecting and/or related to special education

Recommend priorities to be addressed by the district in annual and long-term strategic plans

Encourage parent involvement in opportunities addressing children with special needs

Build collaboration between the special education team which includes parents, general and special education professionals

Introduce new parents to the world of special education



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure high quality special education for learners with disabilities from birth to age 22.

To be a liaison between HVED and member districts and schools served. To advise, educate, and guide parents and school professionals.

Special Education Eligibility

Students must meet one of these categories to receive special education services:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Blind/Visually Impaired
- Deaf/Blind
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Developmental Adapted Physical Education
- Developmental Cognitive Disabilities
- Developmental Delay - Birth through Age 2 or Behavioral Disorders
- Other Health Disabilities
- Physically Impaired
- Severely Multiple Impaired
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech/Language Impaired
- Traumatic Brain Injury

HVED provides the following special education services to member districts and charter schools:

- Coordinates SEAC across all member districts
- Coordinates student specific program planning
- Promotes best practices to ensure growth
- Implements new mandates
- Offers Professional Development to staff
- Provides/coordinates mental health services

HVED provides special education personnel:

- Assistive Technology; Audiology; Behavior Specialists; Blind and Visually Impaired Teachers; Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teachers; Mental Health Professionals; Occupational Therapists; Physical Therapists; Physical and Other Health Disabilities Consultant; School Psychologists; and Work-Based Learning Coordinators

HVED provides alternative and special education programming:

- Area Learning Center (ALC) with Satefios and Targeted Services; Early Intervention (birth to age 3); Level IV Behavior Program (SAIL); Level IV Autism Spectrum Disorder Program (SPC/TRIUMI); and Practical Assessment Employment Skills (PAES) labs in Caledonia and Kellogg.



Hiawatha Valley Education District

HVED District Office, 1410 Bundy Blvd, Winona, MN 55987

No. 61-6013 P: 507.452.1200 F: 507.452.3422 www.hved6013.org

August 28, 2024

Page 1 of 8

HVED on ONE CENTRAL SITE FACTS and FIGURES

WHY is it important for HVED to secure a central site?

- HVED has been searching for appropriate facilities throughout its 30+ year existence; and especially in the last ten years. HVED initiated a facilities study with Kraus-Anderson in 2018 which resulted in three options: 1. Build/Renovate one central site 2. Build/renovate two separate sites 3. Do nothing.

HVED SITES currently:

- HVED owns two (2) sites:
 1. District Office, 1410 Bundy Blvd., Winona, MN
 2. SAIL Behavior Program Site and PAES Lab-Kellogg, 51 Red School Lane, Kellogg, MN (built 1962)
- HVED leases three (3) sites: at a lease cost of \$57,441.09 per year (2022-2023).
 1. River Valley Academy ALC Program Site, within Minnesota State College SE, 1250 Homer Road, Winona, MN. **Total of \$361,647.12 estimated costs for the space over 15 years.**
 2. SPECTRUM Autism Program Site, Hokah City Center, 200 Main Street, Hokah, MN (built 1958) **Total of \$544,246.41 estimated costs for the space over 15 years.**
 3. PAES Lab, within Caledonia Area MS/HS, 825 North Warrior Lane, Caledonia, MN

Operational Costs?

Operational costs are multiplied by the various sites for various costs: garbage, cleaning, etc.

HVED is a PEOPLE BUSINESS resulting in current STAFFING realities:

- 75.8% of our FY23 adopted budget is dedicated to employee wages and benefits
- Because of the separate sites, the struggles in educational staffing are compounded within HVED:
 - staff isolation, disconnectedness, communications
 - double staffing, short staffing, emergency or crisis staffing

HVED Is Moving Forward to a Brighter Future!

- Meet the challenges through HVED's vision of *Exceptional Teams Empowering Exceptional Students*
- Unify our membership
- Solidify our collaborative efforts
- Capitalize on our collective membership
- Provide the necessary and productive programming for our highest needs and most at-risk students

HOW does HVED secure one central site?

- Complete a new Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)
- Secure member district funding of a new central site
- Make project plans and complete construction of a new central site
- HVED's collective capacity is sufficient to accomplish this task!
- HVED's exceptional ability to create and sustain excellent programming for all students is reinforced!
- HVED's staff and students depend on us to move forward now!

Embracing Partnerships and Possibilities to Improve Lives

CALEDONIA • CHATFIELD • DOVER-EYOTA • LACRESCENT-HOKAH • LANESBORO • LEWISTON-ALTURA • MABEL-CANTON
PLAINVIEW-ELGIN-MILLVILLE • RUSHFORD-PETERSON • ST. CHARLES • SPRING GROVE • WABASHA-KELLOGG
BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL • RIDGEWAY COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL • ROLLINGSTONE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL



Hiawatha Valley Education District

HVED District Office, 1410 Bundy Blvd, Winona, MN 55987

No. 61-6013 P: 507.452.1200 F: 507.452.3422 www.hved6013.org

August 28, 2024

Page 2 of 8

LOCATION: Whole of Winona Mall, 1213 Gilmore, Ave., Winona, MN 55987

PURCHASE COST: \$4.2M **TENTATIVE CONSTRUCTION COST:** ~\$9M **TOTAL COST:** \$15M

Note: The decision was made on August 15, 2023 by Superintendents present to cap spending at \$15M.

ACTION TIMELINE:

- August, 2024 Gathering information from the HVED design team, Oversight Committee Members, and staff to share ideas, review documents, and make decisions.
- 7.30.2024 HVED Design Team and ISG Architect and Project Manager meet to review floor plan as concept drawing is finalized.
- 8.6.2024 Deb Marcotte and Jeff Oian met with Doug Scherr and Brandon Clig of Custom Alarm to discuss viability of security systems used in SAIL and SPECTRUM. Everything is transferable!
- 8.7.2024 Virtual meeting with Kyle Fisel and Royal Streed of ISG with Ron Pagel, James Creaghe, and Deb Marcotte regarding electrical service options.
- 8.15.2024 Begin weekly Owner Meetings with ISG, K-A, and HVED regarding all manner of decision making for the design.
- 8.20.2024 Received word from Enterprise Mobility that they will be vacating the Winona Mall property by October 31, 2024. An exact date has not yet been determined.
- 8.22.2024 Received an inquiry from Winona County about the possibility of vacating the Winona Mall as early as possible. An exact date has not yet been determined.
- 8.29.2024 Scheduled in-person on-site meeting with ISG and K-A to review design materials and plans.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Initiated	TASK	Completed
2.23.2023	1. Survey Property to establish the legal description (field work only)	3.21.2023
10.12.2023	2. Purchase Agreement (PA) Revised Final presented to owner on 10.12.2023. Signed by owner on 10.23.2023 and approved by HVED on 10.25.2023.	10.23.2023 10.25.2023
2.28.2023	3. Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for Purchase of Property process presented to HVED as a DRAFT on 5.24.2023. Expected by July 10.	8.17.2023
ASAP –	4. All Member District School Boards will be requested to adopt an additional JPA for the Winona Mall. Approved by all 12 member districts!	9.25.2023
2.23.2023	5. Securing Zoning Authority, City of Winona, minus parcel sold in July 2023 (confirmed in writing)	8.8.2023
2.28.2023	6. Request HVED Board of Directors hire an architect for concept drawings	3.22.2023
	7. HVED Board of Directors approved the Purchase Agreement of the Winona Mall.	10.25.2023
11.2.2023	8. Project Oversight Committee (POC) organized and initial meeting held	11.2.2023
11.2.2023	9. Project Oversight Committee meeting with real estate attorney in preparation to meet December 31, 2023 governmental approval deadline within the Purchase Agreement. The PA due diligence period ends on January 31, 2024.	11.10.2023

Embracing Partnerships and Possibilities to Improve Lives

CALEDONIA • CHATFIELD • DOVER-EYOTA • LACRESCENT-HOKAH • LANESBORO • LEWISTON-ALTURA • MABEL-CANTON
PLAINVIEW-ELGIN-MILLVILLE • RUSHFORD-PETERSON • ST. CHARLES • SPRING GROVE • WABASHA-KELLOGG
BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL • RIDGEWAY COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL • ROLLINGSTONE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL



Hiawatha Valley Education District

HVED District Office, 1410 Bundy Blvd, Winona, MN 55987

No. 61-6013 P: 507.452.1200 F: 507.452.3422 www.hved6013.org

August 28, 2024

Page 3 of 8

11.6.2023	10. Submitted Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Review & Comment (K-A) allow 60 days for response	11.13.2023
11.14.2023	11. Submitted Site Plan Application to the City of Winona – Planning Commission to meet their agenda deadline for review on December 11, 2023.	11.20.2023
12.19.2023 1.16.2024	12. Received letter from City of Winona with Approval of Site Plan with contingencies to be completed prior to occupancy. Confirmation on January 16.	3.26.2024
11.27.2023 1.11.2024	13. IEA initiated site testing for asbestos and lead paint. Follow-up initiated on January 11 and samples taken January 15. Report/estimate provided 1.24.2024	
4.10.2024	14. Issuance of Certificates of Participation (CoP) to Finance Project	4.12.2024
TBD	15. Construction begins	
2024-2025	16. Occupancy of the new facility moved back to a tentative date of October 1, 2025. The building design is expected to be finalized by ISG in September. MDH requires 14-18 weeks to review. K-A estimates an 8-month build out.	

TAX IMPACT Important factors for taxpayers:

- The Joint Powers Agreement provides the formula for each District allocation in Exhibit B of the JPA.
- Taxes were approved in FY24, will be collected in FY25, and will be available to school districts in FY26.
- Estimated tax impact calculations have been provided for a 15-year \$15M. These calculations can be found on HVED's website under About Us > Board of Directors > Board Minutes, Policies & Supporting Documents > Board Documents > Supporting Documents > 2023 > June or directly at:
<https://www.hved6013.org/page/2687/categories/22181>
- HVED will own this building at the conclusion of the process.

If you have any questions or comments about this project, you are welcome to contact:

Debbra C. Marcotte, Ed. D., HVED Executive Director, 1410 Bundy Blvd, Winona, MN 55987

Cell: 507-429-1721 Email: dmarcotte@hved.org

HVED website: www.hved6013.org

UPDATED INFORMATION provided to the HVED Board of Directors on pages 4-8 constituting information provided to member districts requesting an update in July 2024.

Embracing Partnerships and Possibilities to Improve Lives

CALEDONIA • CHATFIELD • DOVER-EYOTA • LACRESCENT-HOKAH • LANESBORO • LEWISTON-ALTURA • MABEL-CANTON
PLAINVIEW-ELGIN-MILLVILLE • RUSHFORD-PETERSON • ST. CHARLES • SPRING GROVE • WABASHA-KELLOGG
BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL • RIDGEWAY COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL • ROLLINGSTONE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL



Hiawatha Valley Education District

HVED District Office, 1410 Bundy Blvd, Winona, MN 55987

No. 61-6013 P: 507.452.1200 F: 507.452.3422 www.hved6013.org

August 28, 2024

Page 4 of 8

HVED Update Prepared for School Board Meetings July 17, 2024

The HVED Board of Directors' receive monthly updates at the HVED regular meetings scheduled for the 4th Wednesday of each month. HVED Board of Director meetings are available to attend via zoom at the link provided on the HVED website main page at www.hved.6013.org under Upcoming Events/News. The information provided includes:

- **HVED on ONE Central Site (history, timeline, monthly events, documents)**
 - Provided to HVED Board of Directors in paper copy and electronically
 - Provided to the Public on HVED's website located at www.hved6013.org under Upcoming Events/News
 - Direct link: <https://www.hved6013.org/page/4053>
- **Executive Director's Highlights (monthly recognitions and activities)**
 - Provided to HVED Board of Directors in paper copy and electronically
 - Provided to the Public on HVED's website located at www.hved6013.org under About Us>Executive Director>Executive Director Highlights>select year>select month
 - Direct link: <https://www.hved6013.org/page/2899/categories/22454>
- **HVED Program Staffing and Student Enrollment (monthly update)**
 - Provided to the HVED Board of Directors and public in Board Supporting Documents on HVED's website located at www.hved6013.org under About Us>Board of Directors>Board Agendas, Minutes, Policies, and Supporting Documents>2024 Supporting Documents then choose a month
 - Direct link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mjEEsdhgGVzKP4Exuld1uS1M3ARc6KYx>
- **Strategic Plan Oversight Committee Report**
 - Quarterly report scheduled for quarterly presentation at the March, June, September, and December (check meeting date)
 - Provided to the Public on HVED's website located at www.hved6013.org under About Us>Board of Directors>Strategic Plan
 - Direct link: <https://www.hved6013.org/page/4045>

Debbra C. Marcotte, Ed.D., Executive Director

Available via email at dmarcotte@hved.org or via cell phone at 507-429-1721

Embracing Partnerships and Possibilities to Improve Lives

CALEDONIA • CHATFIELD • DOVER-EYOTA • LACRESCENT-HOKAH • LANESBORO • LEWISTON-ALTURA • MABEL-CANTON
PLAINVIEW-ELGIN-MILLVILLE • RUSHFORD-PETERSON • ST. CHARLES • SPRING GROVE • WABASHA-KELLOGG
BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL • RIDGEWAY COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL • ROLLINGSTONE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL



Hiawatha Valley Education District

HVED District Office, 1410 Bundy Blvd, Winona, MN 55987

No. 61-6013 P: 507.452.1200 F: 507.452.3422 www.hved6013.org

August 28, 2024

Page 5 of 8

Note: Information Supplied by Ehlers as a Closing Memorandum of Taxable Certificates of Participation, Series 2024A, April 16, 2024

Attachment A

Hiawatha Valley Education District

\$15,000,000 Taxable Certificates of Participation, Series 2024A

Dated: April 16, 2024

Sources & Uses

Dated 04/16/2024 | Delivered 04/16/2024

Sources Of Funds

Par Amount of Bonds	\$15,000,000.00
Original Issue Discount (OID)	(199,920.35)
Total Sources	\$14,800,079.65

Uses Of Funds

Total Underwriter's Discount (0.825%)	123,750.00
Costs of Issuance	141,525.00
Deposit to Capitalized Interest (CIF) Fund	929,729.29
Deposit to Project Construction Fund	13,605,075.36
Total Uses	\$14,800,079.65

Embracing Partnerships and Possibilities to Improve Lives

CALEDONIA ♦ CHATFIELD ♦ DOVER-EYOTA ♦ LACRESCENT-HOKAH ♦ LANESBORO ♦ LEWISTON-ALTURA ♦ MABEL-CANTON
PLAINVIEW-ELGIN-MILLVILLE ♦ RUSHFORD-PETERSON ♦ ST. CHARLES ♦ SPRING GROVE ♦ WABASHA-KELLOGG
BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL ♦ RIDGEWAY COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL ♦ ROLLINGSTONE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL



Hiawatha Valley Education District

HVED District Office, 1410 Bundy Blvd, Winona, MN 55987

No. 61-6013 P: 507.452.1200 F: 507.452.3422 www.hved6013.org

August 28, 2024

Page 6 of 8

Note: Information Supplied by Ehlers as a Closing Memorandum of Taxable Certificates of Participation, Series 2024A, April 16, 2024

Attachment B

Hiawatha Valley Education District

\$15,000,000 Taxable Certificates of Participation, Series 2024A

Dated: April 16, 2024

Debt Service Schedule

Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	CIF	Net D/S	Net New D/S	Fiscal Total
04/16/2024	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10/01/2024	-	-	444,653.14	(444,653.14)	-	-	-
04/01/2025	-	-	485,076.15	(485,076.15)	-	-	-
10/01/2025	-	-	485,076.15	-	485,076.15	485,076.15	-
04/01/2026	700,000.00	6.107%	485,076.15	-	1,185,076.15	1,185,076.15	1,670,152.30
10/01/2026	-	-	463,701.65	-	463,701.65	463,701.65	-
04/01/2027	745,000.00	6.107%	463,701.65	-	1,208,701.65	1,208,701.65	1,672,403.30
10/01/2027	-	-	440,953.08	-	440,953.08	440,953.08	-
04/01/2028	790,000.00	6.107%	440,953.08	-	1,230,953.08	1,230,953.08	1,671,906.16
10/01/2028	-	-	416,830.43	-	416,830.43	416,830.43	-
04/01/2029	835,000.00	6.107%	416,830.43	-	1,251,830.43	1,251,830.43	1,668,660.86
10/01/2029	-	-	391,333.70	-	391,333.70	391,333.70	-
04/01/2030	885,000.00	6.107%	391,333.70	-	1,276,333.70	1,276,333.70	1,667,667.40
10/01/2030	-	-	364,310.23	-	364,310.23	364,310.23	-
04/01/2031	940,000.00	6.288%	364,310.23	-	1,304,310.23	1,304,310.23	1,668,620.46
10/01/2031	-	-	334,756.63	-	334,756.63	334,756.63	-
04/01/2032	1,000,000.00	6.288%	334,756.63	-	1,334,756.63	1,334,756.63	1,669,513.26
10/01/2032	-	-	303,316.63	-	303,316.63	303,316.63	-
04/01/2033	1,065,000.00	6.570%	303,316.63	-	1,368,316.63	1,368,316.63	1,671,633.26
10/01/2033	-	-	268,331.38	-	268,331.38	268,331.38	-
04/01/2034	1,135,000.00	6.570%	268,331.38	-	1,403,331.38	1,403,331.38	1,671,662.76
10/01/2034	-	-	231,046.63	-	231,046.63	231,046.63	-
04/01/2035	1,210,000.00	6.570%	231,046.63	-	1,441,046.63	1,441,046.63	1,672,093.26
10/01/2035	-	-	191,298.13	-	191,298.13	191,298.13	-
04/01/2036	1,290,000.00	6.625%	191,298.13	-	1,481,298.13	1,481,298.13	1,672,596.26
10/01/2036	-	-	148,566.88	-	148,566.88	148,566.88	-
04/01/2037	1,375,000.00	6.625%	148,566.88	-	1,523,566.88	1,523,566.88	1,672,133.76
10/01/2037	-	-	103,020.00	-	103,020.00	103,020.00	-
04/01/2038	1,465,000.00	6.800%	103,020.00	-	1,568,020.00	1,568,020.00	1,671,040.00
10/01/2038	-	-	53,210.00	-	53,210.00	53,210.00	-
04/01/2039	1,565,000.00	6.800%	53,210.00	-	1,618,210.00	1,618,210.00	1,671,420.00
Total	\$15,000,000.00	-	\$9,321,232.33	(929,729.29)	\$23,391,503.04	\$23,391,503.04	-

Embracing Partnerships and Possibilities to Improve Lives

CALEDONIA ♦ CHATFIELD ♦ DOVER-EYOTA ♦ LACRESCENT-HOKAH ♦ LANESBORO ♦ LEWISTON-ALTURA ♦ MABEL-CANTON
PLAINVIEW-ELGIN-MILLVILLE ♦ RUSHFORD-PETERSON ♦ ST. CHARLES ♦ SPRING GROVE ♦ WABASHA-KELLOGG
BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL ♦ RIDGEWAY COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL ♦ ROLLINGSTONE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL



Hiawatha Valley Education District

HVED District Office, 1410 Bundy Blvd, Winona, MN 55987

No. 61-6013 P: 507.452.1200 F: 507.452.3422 www.hved6013.org

August 28, 2024

Page 7 of 8

Note: Preliminary Information Supplied by Ehlers for MDE Proposal for Review and Comment October 30, 2023

Hiawatha Valley Education District Analysis of Tax Impact, 15 Year Term													October 27, 2023	



Hiawatha Valley Education District

HVED District Office, 1410 Bundy Blvd, Winona, MN 55987

No. 61-6013 P: 507.452.1200 F: 507.452.3422 www.hved6013.org

August 28, 2024

Page 8 of 8

Winona Mall updates as of Wednesday, July 17 2024:

1. HVED closed on the Winona Mall purchase on Tuesday, April 16 concluding months of work dedicated to:
 - a. passing the Joint Powers Agreement for twelve (12) member districts
 - b. negotiating the conditions of sale for the property
 - c. completing the process of approval from the Minnesota Department of Education
 - d. completing the process for site approval from the City of Winona and other authorizing agencies
 - e. completing the due diligence phase for all elements associated with environmental testing required for planned renovation of the property
 - f. completing the financing process for the sale of Certificates of Participation
2. Tenants with exit clauses in their leases are actively moving out of the Winona Mall on a regular basis from May 31 – October 31, 2024. During May 2024 HVED collected \$21,050.22 in rent payments.
3. HVED is in conversation with tenants holding leases without exit clauses to consider alternative options.
4. Two tenants, Backyard BBQ and Ocean Sushi, are expected to stay in their current locations for the long-term.
5. HVED has \$9.3M available for construction currently earning interest.
6. Due to the timing of the issuance of the Certificates of Participation, the first year's debt service payments will be made from the proceeds of the Certificates. Member districts are not responsible for the first year of payments.
7. Member districts have the option of levying their debt service responsibility or utilizing such other district funds that may be available.
For a lease levy: In December 2024 Member Districts will have the opportunity to levy their taxpayers for their share of debt service. Taxpayers would be levied in calendar year 2025 and corresponding revenues would be recognized in fiscal year 2026.
8. Construction timeline (noting unforeseen variables and delays):
 - a. Design – expected to be completed by September
 - b. State approval – expected to be completed in 16 – 18 weeks
 - c. Construction processes and requirements in the fall of 2024
 - d. Demolition – expected as soon as January 2, 2025
 - e. Construction – to be determined
 - f. Occupancy – to be determined

Embracing Partnerships and Possibilities to Improve Lives

CALEDONIA • CHATFIELD • DOVER-EYOTA • LACRESCENT-HOKAH • LANESBORO • LEWISTON-ALTURA • MABEL-CANTON
PLAINVIEW-ELGIN-MILLVILLE • RUSHFORD-PETERSON • ST. CHARLES • SPRING GROVE • WABASHA-KELLOGG
BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL • RIDGEWAY COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL • ROLLINGSTONE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL